

An Overview of NAEYC's New Quality Assessment & Accreditation System and Early Learning Program Standards Revision

The following questions were received from attendees during the October 24 webinar.

GENERAL

If you have family members participating in Childcare Aware they have to attend a program that is accredited, has any discussion been held on to what level you would have to be to continue in this program.

- NAEYC is working with CCAoA to understand how their subsidy system will align with the new system.

I understand this means that one does not begin at the recognition level if review indicates it is able to begin at the accreditation level. I have 4 accredited schools thus am looking to begin at accreditation level of the process.

- All programs that are new to the system when it launches will first apply to Recognition, and then once successful, can immediately apply for Accreditation. For current accredited programs, they will transition over into the new system as Accreditation+, and can choose to go to Accreditation at the new renewal or annual report date.

What about the programs that are currently in the process of accreditation?

- Programs at Candidate status by February 15, 2025 will receive a site visit and assessed under CURRENT system and standards. Programs at Registered, Enrolled, Applicant status at launch of the new system will need to submit for "Recognition" to proceed. Any program at Enrolled or Applicant status at time of launch will receive a FREE application for Recognition within the new system. Programs that are Applicants at time of launch will also receive a 50% discount for their Accreditation application. Programs are eligible for these discounts for 12 months following launch of the new system.

What about the programs that have been deferred?

- Programs that have been deferred will first apply to Recognition in the new system, and then can apply for Accreditation.

If we need to resubmit parts of portfolio does that give us a provisional accreditation or possibly deferred?

- Programs will receive an initial decision after the first documentation review; if deferred, the program will have the opportunity to refine the documentation and re-submit it one time for additional review. The 2nd decision report is the final decision.

An Overview of NAEYC's New Quality Assessment & Accreditation System and Early Learning Program Standards Revision

Is accreditation per center or can also be done for multiple centers together?

- Accreditation is per program location, unless the program meets the eligibility criteria for satellite sites.

Are there any API's available to automate assessments etc. data to NAEYC?

- No, not at this time.

If we are just prior to the March launch - is there an option to change to the new system?

- Programs can request an extension if they have not had one before. Contact the support team to explore your options.

FEES

If you are currently accredited is the cost \$650 or do we start over?

- If a program is currently accredited, they will transition into the new system as Accreditation+. At the next annual report date, they will pay the Accreditation+ Annual Fee, or can choose to go Accreditation and pay the Accreditation Annual Fee. If the programs chooses to remain at Accreditation+, they would also pay the Accreditation+ Site Visit fee at the next renewal.

What are the fee structures if you are currently NAEYC Accredited?

- Please see the fee structure [here](#).

If you're already accredited, do you have to pay the fee for Recognition? At renewal?

- No, only programs working through the system would pay for Recognition. A program renewing would only pay the annual fee, and if Accreditation+, at renewal, pay the Accreditation+ Site Visit fee.

CONTENT / ASSESSMENT ITEMS

Are the 125 document-based items in addition to the 40 in the recognition tier or are the 40 included in the 125?

- In Recognition, there are 40 document-based items; In Accreditation, there are 125 document-based items and 75 observation-based items.

Are the initial 40 items part of the 200 items for accreditation? Or is it 240 in total for Accreditation?

- 40 total items for Recognition and 200 total items for Accreditation (125 document-based and 75 observation-based)

An Overview of NAEYC's New Quality Assessment & Accreditation System and Early Learning Program Standards Revision

One slide mentioned evidence with different sources and various age groups re: submitting evidence, can we clarify this?

- Programs will no longer be required to develop Program or Classroom Portfolios but will transition to submitting evidence as appropriate for the item and ages served. For example, programs may have different sources of evidence for each age group but would only submit evidence for the age group one time, per item, even if there are multiple classrooms serving the same age group(s).

When will the portfolio tool be released?

- Assessment items have been released. Resources to support programs in transitioning portfolios will be available this winter.

SITE VISITS

If a school gets a random visit in the Accreditation tier will there be a fee for the school after the visit?

- No, there is no fee when a program receives a random site visit.

Can you please clarify the site visit differences again between the 2 accreditation versions?

- Programs at Accreditation and Accreditation+ will have random visits. Programs applying for or renewing Accreditation + will have a required onsite visit in addition to a potential random visit throughout their term.

ONLINE PORTAL

Will the new platform system be mobile-friendly as I have some very rural areas who do not have good internet service or scanning abilities to upload evidence for a virtual portfolio. They would need to use their phone to upload the documentation.

- Yes, the new portal will be mobile responsive.